

# KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base  
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 65, No. 15  
Thursday, April 14, 2005

The First Command ... recruiting, training and educating professional, expeditionary-minded Airmen to sustain the combat capability of America's Air Force



Dragons deployed  
- 50

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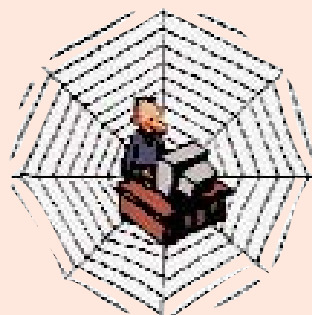
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Keesler News on Web:  
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

## Tree trimming



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Lucy Gamble, left, and Moza Hebert, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, decorate a tree in the 81st CES building. The tree stays up all year long and is redecorated for each holiday honoring deployed Airmen assigned to the squadron. Currently, two Airmen from the squadron are deployed and a 12-member firefighting team deploys at the end of the month.

## Air Force aggressively meeting challenges

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

### Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The two senior leaders of the Air Force spoke April 6 on Capitol Hill about budget cuts, the service's commitment to meeting end-strength requirements, total-force integration and fleet recapitalization.

During testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee subcommittee on defense, Michael Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force, told senators Air Force officials have taken steps already to adjust for a fiscal 2005 budget cut of \$3 billion.

"We have recently directed the Air Force to cut back on peacetime and readiness training operations to conserve funds," he said. "But cutting back alone cannot close the \$3 billion gap in our operations and maintenance account. We are also short some \$700 million in our military personnel account, and there, too, cutting back will not close the gap."

Please see **Budget**, Page 9

## DOD transforms structure, reduces workloads

By Terri Lukach

### American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON— Defense Department officials are working to reduce stress on the force and negate the need for more people in uniform, a top official said here April 6.

"Transformation of how the U.S. military is structured is the biggest way in which the department is working to

reduce demand on U.S. forces," said Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu in testimony on Capitol Hill.

"This will be accomplished by converting capabilities in both the active and reserve components that are in lesser demand to a higher priority structure."

Dr. Chu and several other military personnel officials

from the services testified before the personnel subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He said rebalancing the force from one based on threats, as it was during the Cold War, to a force based on capabilities will improve responsiveness and ease stress on units and people by building up high-demand capabilities.

Dr. Chu outlined the depart-

ment's four primary methods for restructuring the force:

**Limiting** the involuntary mobilization of individual reservists to achieve a reasonable and sustainable rate.

**Rebalancing** the mix of active and reserve-component forces to make the most of needed skill sets.

**Speeding** military-to-civil-

Please see **Transform**, Page 9



# COMMENTARY

## 'Greatest Generation' Read, listen to Holocaust veterans' stories

By Col. Michael Underkofler

403rd Operations Group commander

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. It was a total war — requiring contributions by all to be waged and ultimately won. Troops endured rotten field conditions and rations, worked long hours for days on end, and went years without seeing their families.

Stateside, families took in boarders, made do with rationing and victory gardens, and everyone worked to keep the industrial machine going. Everyone made sacrifices.

Today, we commonly refer to the Americans who fought this total war as the "Greatest Generation."

My grandparents were part of this generation, and in my eyes, they certainly were the greatest. Most of these Americans seem uncomfortable with this relatively recent adulation.

After the war, most of the women who worked in the factories gave up their jobs to the returning troops and went back to the more demanding job of raising children and running households. Veterans went to college or re-entered the workforce. For whatever reason, families and service personnel generally kept their stories of sacrifices and the horrors of war they had witnessed to themselves.

Many children have never heard the stories, and as a nation, we've been slow to capture them. This is unfortunate, because first-person stories with unbridled emotion do a better job of grabbing our attention and making us understand how important it is to learn from our past.

This year I hope you'll make a commitment to read about and listen to some first-person stories from the Greatest Generation. These heroes who won World War II for us won't be around much longer. An incredibly worthy story to read about and listen to is that of the American liberators — military members who helped free people from oppression and tyranny. One of these histories chronicles the exploits of the warriors who put an end to the Holocaust and liberated the Nazi death camps in 1945. At Keesler's Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Keesler Club, you'll have the opportunity to read and listen to the stories of these veterans.

The Shoah, or Holocaust, was the systematic extermination of six million Jews, approximately two-thirds of the pre-war European Jewish population. Killed along with them were political dissidents, the Roma (gypsies), handicapped, and others deemed undesirable by the Nazis. Starting first as harassment, name-calling and false blame, the hatred ultimately grew into an accepted practice of annihilation. Families had their possessions con-

fiscated, were forced to live in ghettos, and finally were transported to labor camps where most were abused, then killed, in short order.

In early 1945, the allies were able to push through Europe to the heart of the Nazi-held stronghold. American soldiers were soon witnesses and liberators at the gates of the wretched death camps, and weren't prepared for, nor were they able to comprehend the magnitude of the evil that took place. The camps were horrific cesspools where the dignity of human life was lost. So efficient was the killing machine that most historians would later agree that if the war had lasted much longer, most European Jews would have been exterminated.

The Americans who liberated the camps were deeply affected by what they saw. Tough-as-nails Gens. George Patton and Dwight Eisenhower were so visibly shaken at the camps that they became violently ill. Eisenhower said in a letter in April 1945, "I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to 'propaganda.'"

The American liberators instinctively knew what to do. They took the time to bury and honor the dead and carefully nurse to health the gaunt living who remained.

Remembering the Holocaust is important to Americans, especially those serving in the armed forces, for several reasons. It was the American military that liberated the death camps, then exposed and documented what had taken place. America also welcomed many of those who survived and provided them opportunities and freedoms found nowhere else.

By annually and accurately telling the story of the Holocaust and honoring those who died, we help ensure future generations know what can happen if hatred, bigotry and indifference are left unchecked and unchallenged. Finally, listening to the stories of liberators and remembering the Holocaust helps us to reaffirm what's best in our national culture.

It serves as a touchstone for counting our blessings, enduring our hardships, remembering the ultimate sacrifices of others, and the role we as military members play in guaranteeing the dignity and self-worth of all humanity.

This year, thank your neighbors and family members from the Greatest Generation. Listen closely to stories from those who were liberators of the Holocaust and other atrocities. Their model of sacrifice and service serves us well in the military today as we confront global challenges.

## Times require new strategy to foster international skills

By Gen. John Jumper

Air Force chief of staff

We're an expeditionary Air Force. To continue our success far from home, we must develop a cadre of Air Force professionals with international insight, foreign language proficiency, and cultural understanding — Airmen who have the right skill sets to understand the specific regional context in which air and space power may be applied.

In the past, we used the Foreign Area Officer program to identify officers who possessed the cultural and linguistic skills necessary for our expeditionary operations. However, we only identified those who had acquired such skills on their own. We didn't deliberately select or train officers to develop the regional skills the Air Force needs.

Furthermore, few FAOs were actually assigned to international duties and there was a perception that doing so would harm an officer's career. We didn't actively develop this important capability or create a career path.

Today's security environment demands officers with international skills. The FAO program is no longer sufficient to meet our requirement, so we're replacing it with a program that selects, develops and deliberately employs officers as international affairs specialists.

Beginning this summer/fall, our functional development teams and IAS functional managers will identify mid-career line officers with potential to excel as IASs and select them for development. They'll attend comprehensive developmental education programs aimed at developing a strong foundation in international affairs, while

remaining fully proficient and competitive in their primary Air Force specialty codes.

They'll be chosen for one of two tracks:

**Regional affairs strategists** earn a regionally-oriented graduate degree followed by basic and advanced language training. They'll then alternate assignments between their primary Air Force Specialty Codes and RAS duty.

**Political-military affairs strategists** earn an international affairs-related degree.

They'll develop broader, less specialized skills that'll be used in career broadening assignments. The goal of this part of the program is to develop officers in line specialties with an advanced awareness of the international context in which we will apply air and space power.

The IAS program will be important to all Airmen, not only those selected for this training. All of you are part of an expeditionary Air Force, and will benefit from the expertise brought by IASs to AEF deployments and overseas assignments.

Over the next few months, the assignment teams, led by the guidance provided by the development teams, will provide officers with the details on how their specific AFSC will manage IAS selection, senior rater involvement, as well as how to volunteer.

This is a force development culture change that'll develop a global cadre for international affairs. The goal is clear — develop professional Airmen with international insight, foreign language proficiency, and cultural understanding.

## KEESLER NEWS

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No. 1 in Air Force,  
1997, 2004.

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# TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Standing from left, Airman Melinda Marsh, Airman 1st Class Melrico Jones and Airman Yolanda Segovia, and kneeling, Airman 1st Class Jonathan Maxwell, perform the Bulls' winning freestyle drill. Airman Jones served as freestyle drill master for the team.

## Bulls stampede to drill down win

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The 335th Training Squadron Bulls claimed top honors at the 81st Training Group's second drill down of the season Friday, winning first place in open ranks and freestyle competition and second place in regulation drill.

The Dark Knights from the 338th TRS came in second place with second place marks in open ranks and freestyle and third place in regulation drill.

The 332nd TRS Mad Dogs, who won the season's first competition in February to begin defending their 2003 and 2004 annual titles, placed first in regulation drill to finish third overall.

The 334th TRS Gators finished third in open ranks and freestyle.

Members of the 335th TRS' team are Airmen Basic John Apple, Adam Cook, Jamal Kareen, Tina Lawson-Lowe, Kayla Maloney, Melinda Marsh, Jewlia Springer and Nicholas Steininger; Airmen Karla Hause, Jonathan Maxwell and Yolanda Segovia; and Airmen 1st Class Chad Hicks, Kevin Johnson (regulation drill instructor), Melrico Jones (freestyle drill-master), Evan Lai and Stephanie Mikesch. Staff Sgt. Beau Nelson is in charge of the team.

The next competition is 7 a.m. June 3 on the parade field behind the Levitow Training Support Facility.



Airman Basic Ryan Kowalczyk, left, and Airman 1st Class Mathew Onus, 334th TRS, twirl their rifles during the freestyle competition.





Lieutenant DeTurk, left, and Airman Decker eye their target after leaving their vehicle to seek cover.

Photo by Senior Airman Nicholas Whitney

# Security forces get vehicular survival training

By Airman 1st Class  
Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Seven Airmen from the 81st Security Forces Squadron recently attended a two-day vehicular advanced survival and combat tactics course.

The course was at the Lake City, Fla., Community College Law Enforcement Academy.

The curriculum was non-stop firing and hand-to-hand combat drills in and around vehicles, said 2nd Lt. Eric DeTurk, security force training and resources office.

Other 81st SFS participants were Staff Sgts. James Boyd, Nicholas Ford, Jon Jennings, and Simon Webster; and Senior Airmen Robert Decker and Nicholas Whitney.

There were also 13 other civilian law enforcement officers in attendance, including investigators, special weapons and tactics team members and a civilian combat medic.

The course covered survival scenarios in and around vehicles, including counter-ambush drills by shooting through windshields, technical exiting from both the driver and passenger sides of the vehicle, and transitioning from their 9 mm Beretta to a M-16 A2 rifle.

"I went in the course uncertain how accurate my weapons fire would be if I fired a round through the windshield," said Sergeant Boyd, security forces investigations. "I had a mental

"Knowing what to do without having to think about it can mean the difference in you going home ... or paying the ultimate sacrifice."

— Airman Decker

picture there would be some type of blow-back of glass when the round penetrated the windshield."

"I learned I would still hit where I was aiming even through the glass, and to my amazement, there was very little blow-back glass," Sergeant Boyd added.

The course also covered skill at arms and marksmanship drills at the lethal level, and confrontational combat-ives at less than lethal levels of the use of force continuum. This allowed participants to execute their duties while decreasing the odds of personal fatality and liability.

"The main objective was to dismount the vehicle in the most expeditious manner, engage the target, seek cover and then reengage," Lieutenant DeTurk explained.

"We also had the opportunity to sit in a vehicle simulator and engage targets through an actual windshield, applying the concepts we were taught through the training."

All Keesler participants agreed that this training has made them more confident in and around their cars if the need arises.

Sergeant Boyd said, "During the hand-to-hand combat portion, one of the guys I was faced off with was 6 feet 5 inches tall and about 230 pounds. As he attacked, I reacted as they trained us and placed him down at a disadvantage with ease."

"Working at Keesler, it's really easy to become complacent, and as a police officer that's the most dangerous thing you can do," said Airman Decker, security forces patrolman.

"As patrolmen, we always keep in mind how dangerous, even deadly, a simple traffic stop can be.

"Even something as simple as stopping a vehicle for not using a turn signal can turn into a nightmare," he explained.

"This class has better prepared not only me, but all the law enforcement officers that



Photo by 2nd Lt. Eric DeTurk

Sergeant Jennings, left, practices a hand-to-hand combat exercise on Airman Whitney. This knee-thrust maneuver is used in a confrontation with a high-threat subject.

attended by taking scenarios that have happened in the past and prepared us mentally for what can happen and how to counter the problem without hesitation," said Airman Decker.

"Knowing what to do without having to think about it can mean the difference in you going home at the end of your tour of duty or paying the ultimate sacrifice."



## TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

### Spouse scholarships

Friday is the deadline to apply for the Air Force Spouse Scholarship Program sponsored by the Aerospace Education Foundation.

For application guidelines and requirements, visit <http://www.aef.org/aid/spouse>.

### Homosexual awareness

Homosexual awareness training is scheduled for 9 a.m. every other month in the Sablich Center auditorium.

The dates: April 21, June 23, Aug. 18, Oct. 20 and Dec. 15.

### Career Blazer visit

A Career Blazer Learning Center admissions representative will be in the first floor main hallway of Sablich Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 25.

The center offers distant learning courses that offer nationally accredited certificates of completion and college credits. Courses are approved for tuition assistance.

For more information, call Stan Pace, 850-529-0469.

### Computer classes

These computer classes are available in April at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center.

Classes are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for Keesler employees and open to the public if space is available.

**Microsoft Excel 2000 Level I** — introduction to spreadsheet fundamentals, April 26.

**Microsoft Excel 2000 Level II** — enhance spreadsheets using formatting techniques, managing workbooks and advanced printing options, April 28.

Classes are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 242, Sablich Center. The cost is \$34.

Register at least one week in advance by calling 897-4364 or e-mailing [michelle.wilson@mgccc.edu](mailto:michelle.wilson@mgccc.edu).

### CCAF graduation

The spring Community College of the Air Force graduation is 4 p.m. April 26 in the Keesler Community Center.

Graduates should arrive by 2:30 p.m. in service dress.

Chief Master Sgt. Aliquippa Allen, 81st Training Wing command chief, is the speaker. Diplomas are pre-

sented by Brig. Gen. William Lord, 81st TRW commander.

A reception follows the ceremony.

For more information, call 377-2323 or 2171.

### Education office closed

The education office closes at noon April 26 due to the Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony.

For more information, call 377-2323.

### Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Group's drill down competitions alternate with non-prior service student parades behind the Levitow Training Support Facility.

Student parades are 7 p.m. May 5, July 28 and Nov. 17. The September parade date hasn't been scheduled.

Drill downs are 7 a.m. June 3, Aug. 12 and Oct. 7. The annual championship is 8 a.m. Dec. 2.

For information on student parades, call Tech. Sgt. Charles Veillon, 377-2789. For information on drill downs, call Staff Sgt. Deanna Attaway, 377-2103.

### ACT deadline

The education office deadline to sign up for the July 11 ACT is July 11.

To sign up, visit Room 224, Sablich Center or call 377-2323 or 2171.

### WIA grants

Military spouses and veterans are now eligible for dislocated worker training grants under the Workforce Investment Act.

Categories that fall under the WIA definition of dislocated worker are honorably discharged veterans (given priority over non-veterans), military spouses who make a permanent change of station with military member, spouses of military members who are honorably discharged and surviving spouses of veterans and military members.

For more information, call the family support center, 377-2179.

### Virtual education

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has been transferred to the Air Force Portal.

To access AFVEC, use the AFVEC URL, <https://afvec>.

[langley.af.mil](https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod), or go directly to the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>. Use your Air Force Portal user identification and password to log on.

First-time users are prompted to re-register some of their profile information and then are taken directly into their AFVEC profile.

For more information, call Joyce James, 377-7056.

### Civilian tuition aid

Civilian employees assigned to Keesler are eligible for college tuition assistance.

Courses must be Air Force mission or job related and taken through a regionally accredited college or university.

Required paperwork is available at the education office, Room 224, Sablich Center.

For more information, call 377-2323.

### Troops to Teachers

For general information on Troops to Teachers, visit <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt/index2.htm>.

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call Chris Carey, 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

### ACSC options

Air Command and Staff College can be completed by correspondence or seminar.

Majors or major-selects of all service components and civilians General Schedule-11 and above are eligible.

For more information, call or e-mail Edward Hodge, 377-7159, [eddie.hodge@keesler.af.mil](mailto:eddie.hodge@keesler.af.mil).

### Instructor openings

For information on Keesler NCO Academy instructor openings, call Senior Master Sgt. Robin Lee, 377-3405.

### USM online

For online courses through the University of Southern Mississippi, go to <http://www.usm.edu> or call 377-2309.

### Work study

Part-time employment is available to Chapters 30 and 31 Veterans Affairs people enrolled in college or vocational programs at least 75 percent status.

For more information or applications, call Robin Manson, 377-5149, or visit Room 224, Sablich Center.

# NEWS AND FEATURES

## Medic claims Air Force honor

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Senior Airman Ashlee Swann, contingency response team coordinator with the 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron's readiness flight, has been named Air Force Aerospace Medicine Expeditionary Operations/Readiness Airman of the Year for 2004.

Among her achievements, Airman Swann was recognized for managing the group's Contingency Response Team program encompassing 22 CRT chiefs and more than 700 medics.

Her nomination cited her "foresightedness for assembling CRT chiefs 48 hours before Hurricane Ivan hit and reviewing the Medical Center Response Plan and specific



Airman Swann

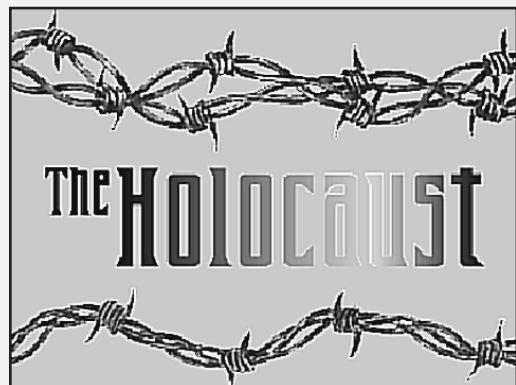
team roles. She assessed team strengths, orchestrated manning availability and readied the MDG for shelter operations

during a possible disaster."

The nomination continued, "The MDG sheltered 714 people plus 47 stranded nursing home residents. Effective CRT planning made it happen."

Airman Swann also was recognized for overhauling the medical group's Warrior Training Day. After noting a decline in CRT training, she developed and briefed her idea to the group's leadership. She wrote the Warrior Day policy letter which involved closing afternoon clinic and having squadron commanders evaluate training.

Airman Swann received the award during the Medical Readiness Symposium, Feb. 28-March 4 in St. Louis.



## Wednesday's memorial set for Keesler Club

Editor's note: For related commentary, see page 2.

Holocaust survivor Henry Greenbaum and Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood speak at the annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Keesler Club.

Other speakers include Bob Ferguson, a World War II "liberator," and Gretchen Skidmore of the National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

A potluck supper honoring Mr. Greenbaum and Ms. Skidmore is 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the former chapel adjacent to Sablich Center.

For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Kalman Duboy, 377-4030.

## Financial services earns Air Force special acts award

By Senior Airman Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The 81st Comptroller Squadron recently received an Air Force award for actions taken during Hurricane Ivan last year.

The financial services office at Keesler was one of two Air Education and Training Command offices to receive an Air Force Financial Management and Comptroller Award for special acts and services.

The 81st CPTS secured \$1 million from several coast banks and provided cash advances for Keesler evacuees while ensuring sufficient funds were available for damage restoration and reconstitution efforts.

The squadron stood up weekend operations to meet the financial needs of 400 students, instructors and family members from Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla., who took refuge at Keesler after the hurricane hit the Florida panhandle.

"It is a great honor to receive this award," said Maj. Richard Fogg, 81st CPTS commander. "It was an outstanding accomplishment in such a short period of time. We're hoping that this recognition will lead to the continuation of the service that we provide to our personnel."

The 97th CPTS at Altus Air Force Base, Okla., was the other AETC base to receive the Air Force award.

## IN THE NEWS

### AFAF campaign winds down

Keesler has collected \$65,927 for the 2005 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

The drive ended April 5, but last-minute contributions continue to trickle in, according to Maj. Ramil Ascano, installation project officer.

For more information, call Major Ascano, 377-2428.

### Retiree Appreciation Day May 13

Keesler's annual Retiree Appreciation Day is May 13.

For more information, call the retiree activities office, 377-3871.

### No colorful bracelets in uniform

The popular rubber wristbands in various colors worn to support a variety of causes aren't authorized to be worn while in uniform.

"The bracelets don't meet the conservative criteria outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel," said Master Sgt. Stephanie Sanders-Kuhlmann, Air Force Personnel Center.

### Medical center pediatric care

Keesler Medical Center implements two enrollment processes over the next several weeks — migrating about 370 patients up to age 17 currently enrolled in family practice to pediatrics, and enrolling future beneficiaries up to 17 years of age directly in pediatrics.

Patients ages 13-17 are enrolled to the adolescent specialty clinic on the fifth floor of the medical center.

Active-duty sponsors or their spouses may request their children continue to be seen in family practice. Requests to "opt out" of the migration can be made at the family practice reception desk or by e-mailing joseph.hale@keesler.af.mil through April 30.

### Airman convicted of sodomy

Air Force Print News

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Master Sgt. Bart Lipscomb, 86th Maintenance Squadron, was convicted of sodomy and sentenced to a dishonorable discharge, 19 years confinement, reduction to airman basic and forfeiture of all pay and allowances by a general court-martial March 29.

He pleaded guilty to one charge of sodomy with a female younger than 12, one charge of sodomy with a female between 12 and 16, committing indecent acts with a minor younger than 16 and committing indecent acts with a female minor younger than 16. He also knowingly possessed visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

He'll serve 11 years under a plea bargain agreement.

### Child porn sentence ends career

AETC News Service

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Airman 1st Class Axel Acevedo, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, was sentenced to five months confinement, reduction to the lowest enlisted rank and a bad conduct discharge after being found guilty of violating wrongfully and knowingly possessing child pornography during a court-martial March 10.



# Budget,

from Page 1

Mr. Dominguez asked lawmakers to act quickly on supplemental budget requests to help the Air Force meet its financial needs.

Air Force officials have been working for some time to reduce the active-duty end

strength — the total number of Airmen on active duty. Congress said the service may have no more than 359,000 Airmen on active duty.

Through force-shaping initiatives and reductions in recruiting, Air Force officials brought the end strength down to within 3 percent of its allowance, Mr. Dominguez said.

“We have been working the problem pretty aggressively for

a couple years,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. “But our biggest gains are from the one (step) we resisted having to make, making a nosedive in recruiting.”

The general said the Air Force has cut active-duty accessions by half to meet the end-strength requirement.

“From October to February, we essentially shut down recruiting,” he told legislators.

General Jumper said he expects the Air Force to return to full recruiting efforts in the next fiscal year, and the service will meet its end-strength requirement by the beginning of fiscal 2006.

Mr. Dominguez and General Jumper said their primary concern is the age of the service’s aircraft fleet.

“Our tanker force and portions of the C-130 (Hercules) fleet are over 40 years old,” General Jumper said. “And some 2,000 of the 6,000 airplanes in the Air Force are now under some sort of a flight restriction, mainly (because of) aging considerations. We need to put emphasis on this.

# Transform,

from Page 1

ian conversions to free up forces for military duties.

**Investing** in new information age technologies, precision weapons, unmanned air and sea vehicles, and other less manpower-intensive platforms and technologies to relieve stress on the force.

Department officials also are increasing the “jointness” of U.S. military forces and spreading mission requirements across the force “to ease the burden on some high-demand, low-density units and skills,” Dr. Chu said.

He said the purpose of reserve components has changed, and a mission-ready National Guard is a critical element of national security strategy.

He said that America’s military faces many challenges.

“Where it does,” he said, “particularly in the area of recruiting, retention and stress, we carefully monitor the current status and take measures to resolve problems.”

# Son of aerospace medic saves 10-year-old boy from drowning after storm

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

The son of an 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron member is credited with saving the life of a 10-year-old boy April 1 after a downpour filled local drainage ditches.

According to Capt. Ron Leczner, flight commander of the 81st AMDS Aeromedical Staging Facility, at around 10 a.m., several children were playing in flood waters left by the recent storm at the Reilly Road entrance to Trentwood development in Ocean Springs. They had gathered near a flooded culvert and were throwing a ball into the water, watching it come out the other end. A youngster, believed to be about 10 years old, leaned out over the culvert’s entrance trying to retrieve a large piece of Styrofoam.

“There was a large whirlpool at the entrance to the culvert roughly 3 feet in diameter,” Captain Leczner related. “As the other children began yelling for the boy to get back, he fell into the water. The child quickly disappeared beneath the water’s surface and was dragged into the culvert beneath the road.”

The captain continued, “My 13-year-old son, Jon, heard the cries of the children who had seen the boy fall in. When Jon looked over, he saw one boy screaming that his friend was going to die. Jon said a thousand thoughts were racing through his mind, but he remembered that earlier he had watched the ball being sucked through the culvert and realized that it always surfaced in same exact location near the culvert’s exit. He ran across the street and positioned himself on the side of the cement abutment, a few feet downstream near the end of the wall where the ball had emerged.

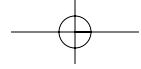
“According to Jon, it seemed like forever, but the boy finally bobbed to the surface,” Captain Leczner said. “When the youngster broke the surface, he began clawing at the cement wall but was slipping off when Jon reached into the water and grabbed him by his wrist. Jon pulled him out of the water and onto the bank. The boy was choking and coughing and his energy was drained. Jon dragged him further onto the bank and then helped him to the road and out of danger.”

Captain Leczner said he only found out about the near tragedy when Jon walked into the house and said, “Dad, it must be a great feeling to work in a hospital and save lives every day.” When he asked Jon what he was talking about, he said, “I think I may have saved somebody,” and told his dad the story.

Captain Leczner said, “I am very proud of Jon and the fact that he took action which quite possibly saved a life. His cool thinking under pressure allowed him to go to the exact spot where Zack came to the surface and prevented him from slipping back into the water and being swept into deep water and debris.”

Ocean Springs Mayor Seren Ainsworth invited Jon to Tuesday’s city council meeting where he’ll be recognized for his heroism.





# PERSONNEL NOTES

**Editor's note:** This column is a service of the the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

## Iraq, Afghanistan campaign medals

### Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Two new campaign medals announced April 7 recognize service members for their contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Defense Department officials announced the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal for service members who directly supported Operation Enduring Freedom between Oct. 24, 2001, and a date to be determined in the future or Operation Iraqi Freedom between March 19, 2003, and some future date.

The new campaign medals were established by presidential order for service members who have been assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating in these areas, officials said.

Until now, service members deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq during the designated timeframes were awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Service members with the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal remain qualified for it and may apply for the appropriate new campaign medal as well.

Service members may receive both of the new campaign medals if they meet the requirement for both awards.

For more information, contact the military personnel flight.

## Officer promotion orders

Effective immediately, Air Force Personnel Center no longer transmits officer promotion orders to military personnel flights for distribution to officers due to the "Quick Win" initiative to reduce MPF workloads.

Officer promotion orders are distributed prior to the effective date of promotion, therefore the new policy doesn't affect receipt of promotion orders or the ceremony. For more information, call 377-3895, or email [lashawndra.singleton@keesler.af.mil](mailto:lashawndra.singleton@keesler.af.mil).

## WAPS study list available

### Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The current weighted airman promotion system catalog, which lists the materials used by test writers to develop the 2005 promotion tests, is available on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/testing>.

The catalog lists study references for those testing for staff through chief master sergeant.

Test dates for staff sergeant are May 1-31.

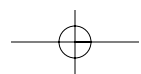
## Keesler Contact Center

The Keesler Contact Center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. work days in the customer service office, Room 125, Sablich Center.

Computers and phones telephones provide a direct link to the Air Force Contact Center at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, for inquiries about identification cards, TRICARE, family care, leave, career enhancement, employment, training, relocations, special programs, retirement and separation.

The AFCC Web site is <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

The AFCC can also be contacted 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays by calling DSN 665-5000, 1-210-565-5000 or 1-866-229-7074, e-mailing [contact.center@randolph.af.mil](mailto:contact.center@randolph.af.mil), fax DSN 665-1239 or 1-210-565-1239, or mail to HQ AFPC/DPSFC, 550 C St. West, Suite 37, Randolph AFB, TX 78150.



# Living wills: Schiavo case raises awareness

By Elaine Wilson

Fort Sam Houston  
Public Information Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — The Terry Schiavo saga has both captured and divided the nation as moral and legal questions have been raised over the right to live or die.

While many people remain at odds over the underlying issues, most agree on one topic — the importance of living wills.

“We’ve had a huge increase over the past couple of months because of the Schiavo case,” said Burton Brasher, chief of client services in the Fort Sam Houston legal assistance office. “We’ve probably done more in the past two months than we’ve done in the past year. Although difficult, the case has definitely raised public awareness.”

A living will is a legal document expressing a person’s personal health-care wishes in the event he’s unable to make decisions, Mr. Brasher said.

“If you’re incapacitated, a living

will provides the doctor with guidance for your continued treatment,” he said.

This guidance includes decisions related to extraordinary measures to sustain life, a goal doctors aim for in the absence of a living will.

“Doctors are trained to do everything they can to preserve life,” Mr. Brasher said. “But not all people want to live like that, whether (for) religious beliefs, personal convictions or financial reasons.”

Living wills are particularly important for people heading into risky situations, such as combat or medical procedures.

“It helps remove uncertainty,” Mr. Brasher said. “We have a lot of doctors sending patients over here before surgeries. They recognize the importance of the document. The more a doctor knows, the better he can do his job.”

There’s no federal standard for living wills, so many states have their own format. Texas, for example, has two documents, both referred to as living wills. One is a directive to physicians, and the other is a special power

of attorney for health care. The first expresses the patient’s personal desires in advance, and the other designates a “decision-maker” who decides on measures taken to preserve life at a later time.

Both documents are legally binding, but Mr. Brasher said people who have both documents should make sure neither one conflicts with the other.

“Make sure your personal wishes and the person you designate as your decision-maker in the power of attorney are on the same page,” he said.

Other states have just one document. In some states, organ donation is included in living wills, while the choice to donate is designated through the driver’s license system in others.

Whatever the differences, Mr. Brasher said he recommends a living will based on where people live, whether a resident or not, to remove the “guess work.”

“It’s best to have one for the state you live in or (move) to so the local doctor has a document he’s familiar with,” he said.

However, since each state has its

own format, the legal office here includes a header that asks for the will to be recognized nationwide.

Another way to avoid potential problems is to update living wills every two to three years so there’s recent proof and fewer “questions raised about whether you still feel the same way as you did when you signed the document,” Mr. Brasher said.

People also should talk to their health-care providers, particularly when undergoing a medical procedure.

“Find out the consequences of the procedure beforehand,” Mr. Brasher said. “That way, you can include specific requests in your living will. For instance, if you don’t want a feeding tube, you can say so in the directive.”

Any military legal assistance office can prepare living wills free of charge to active-duty service members, family members, retirees and reservists on active duty for 30 or more days.

For more information at Keesler, call 377-3510.



# Pet sheltering provided on base during hurricanes

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

When a hurricane targets Keesler, Blake Fitness Center morphs into the Pet Safe Haven Reception Center.

The pet shelter opened its doors for the first time last September to 110 cats and dogs when their owners evacuated to base shelters during Hurricane Ivan.

In the past, Keesler people who sought shelter on base had to make other arrangements for their pets. Now the fitness center will house cats and dogs — no reptiles or other exotic animals.

“We instituted pet sheltering to alleviate the need for family members to depart the local area with their pets in search of pet-friendly shelters,” said Larry Tabor, operations plans chief for the 81st Training Wing.

Because of space and manpower limitations, the service is offered only for military family housing residents and mission-essential personnel who live off-base who stay in one of the base’s shelters. Registration begins at Hurri-

cane Condition 2, 24 hours before the forecasted arrival of 50-knot winds. Reception team members are able to register pets before the owner reports to a shelter.

Requirements to shelter animals:

**They must be housed in a kennel** approved by the base veterinary clinic. A carrier one size larger than what is normally used for transportation is recommended in case an extended stay is necessary.

**Consider a padlock** to secure the animal inside the cage.

**Fill out** the pet safe haven agreement.

**Bring adequate bedding, food and water** for the animal for 36 hours.

**The base veterinary clinic** issues a Defense Department Form 2343, Veterinary Health Record, if a pet has all required vaccinations. The clinic also provides a requirements checklist that must be followed before an animal is sheltered.

**Identification tags**, preferably the microchip identifica-

tion available from the clinic, are recommended to provide positive identification of pets.

**Pets must be retrieved** no later than two hours after the “all clear” declaration.

**Pets must be picked up** immediately if the wing commander declares a mandatory evacuation for the base. The animal shelter is staffed for only 30 minutes after a mandatory evacuation order is announced. After this time, the facility door is left unlocked so owners can reclaim their animals.

To prepare for sheltering a pet during a hurricane, owners should:

**Train pets** — obedience may save their lives in an emergency and help make them welcomed guests.

**Familiarize the animal** with its transport kennel. Cats can be very difficult to catch when stressed or afraid.

**Purchase tags**, harnesses, leashes and extra collars for all pets, including cats. Muzzles may also be needed to control agitated and aggressive animals.

**Gather food**, water, bowls and familiar toys or blankets for the pet.

**Purchase** paper towels, plastic bags and spray disinfectant for animal waste cleanup.

**Obtain copies** of your pet’s medical and vaccination records.

**Include a photograph** of your pet with other requested records.

For more information, call Mr. Tabor, 377-2222.

# Supply officer recalls deployment to Afghanistan

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

When Capt. Rex Lutz was invited to the 81st Training Wing's annual awards banquet in February, he sent his regrets, even though he won the company grade officer of the year award for the second year in a row.

His reason? He was 7,740 miles away on deployment in Afghanistan.

The captain, flight commander of the 81st Supply Squadron, served for four months as air liaison officer for the Combined Forces Command's joint operations center in Kabul.

He's been deployed twice before — to Kuwait in 2000 in support of Operation Southern Watch, and to Germany in 2003 with European Command Headquarters Joint Operations.

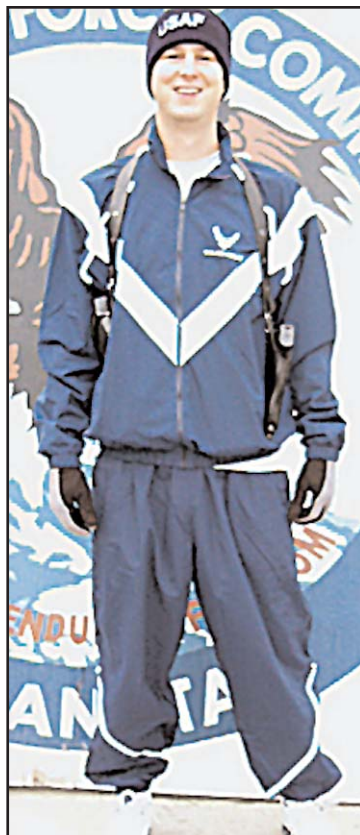
While in Afghanistan, his duties included deployment of close air support, distinguished visitor flight coordinator, air cargo expert and airlift movement coordinator for the area of responsibility.

"I worked with military forces from 33 different countries," said Captain Lutz, who arrived at Keesler nearly three years ago. "Now I have friends and invitations to vacation spots all over the world. It was a unique opportunity to work directly with other nations."

High points of his deployment were seeing Afghan citizens vote for the first time and witnessing their first-ever presidential inauguration.

"Seeing the local Afghan community embrace the support we gave them and observing first-hand how a newly-liberated country appreciates us were the most rewarding aspects of the deployment for me," the captain pointed out.

He described his living conditions in Afghanistan as "better than a tent, but worse than a dorm" and admitted



Courtesy photo

**Captain Lutz had to carry his weapon 24/7, even during physical training.**

missing the comforts of home, like hot showers and being able to brush his teeth without bottled water.

Being separated from his wife, Natalie, was difficult, but they stayed in touch by e-mail and weekly phone calls.

Since arriving home Feb. 24, the captain emphasized that his duty in Afghanistan didn't change his commitment to serving his country.

"I still love the Air Force and I'll continue to serve and volunteer for more deployments," he commented. "We're truly making a difference around the globe, despite how the media portrays our efforts."

It's a safe bet Captain Lutz won't be at next year's wing awards banquet, either — he leaves Keesler May 23 to join the staff at Air Mobility Command headquarters, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.



# Tentative decision date for A-76 slips to July 8

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The deadline for a tentative decision about whether the government's most efficient organization or a private contractor will provide support services at Keesler has slipped from June 15 to July 8.

However, the July 1, 2006, date for transition to the new service provider hasn't been affected, according to officials at the April 4 A-76 town hall meeting in the Sablich Center auditorium.

## Sizing up competition

The additional time is required because of the number of bids that must be evaluated, according to Brig. Gen. William Lord, 81st Training Wing commander. Up to 13 contractors are being considered to compete against Keesler's MEO.

"We know we have to keep moving forward with this," said Brig. Gen. William Lord, 81st Training Wing commander. "You've got mortgages to pay and kids to send to school — it's all about your livelihood."

The decision affects more than 700 Keesler jobs in civil engineering, communications, supply, services, mission support and other support areas.

Air Education and Training Command's source selection evaluation team continues its deliberations at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. It's chaired by Lt. Col. Brett Mayhew, former 81st Training Group deputy commander, who's been at Randolph since last summer.

The team reviews private sector bids and recommends to the source selection authority, the Air Force Program Executive Officer, which contractor should compete with the in-house government estimate. That decision is expected in mid-June.

## Fact-finding trips

From late January through last month, Senior Master Sgt. Brian Mooers and Master Sgt. Dave Trzaskos of the competitive sourcing staff visited seven different bases to review offices that have oversight responsibility for a con-

tractor operation or an MEO.

"They learned that no two are alike — there's very little standardization," explained Linda Clower, chief of Keesler's competitive sourcing office. "With a government MEO, there's less oversight — with a contractor, there's much more."

## Steering group gears up

The base's management steering group met recently to discuss what kinds of office will work best here, whether the MEO or contractor is chosen.

Ms. Clower also explained that with the upcoming performance-based contract, Keesler will have a performance management office, rather than quality assurance evaluators. She expects the office will stand up three to six months before the contract start date.

Senior Master Sgt. Shirley Bailey, superintendent of relocations and employment for the military personnel flight, said squadron commanders are coming up with lists of mission-essential personnel to be "frozen" Nov. 1 to accomplish the transition to a new service provider.

## Paring down lists

"In most cases, these lists still need to be narrowed down," Sergeant Bailey pointed out. "Whether someone is considered mission-essential is determined by commanders based on unit manning and mission accomplishment."

Jean Gazzo of the civilian personnel flight said that canvassing of employees who may qualify for Voluntary Early Retirement Authority or Voluntary Separation Incentive Program buyouts began last month.

"We've asked people who are interested to respond by April 20 so General Lord can ask for funding," Ms. Gazzo pointed out. "It's not binding until they sign on the bottom line in a year."

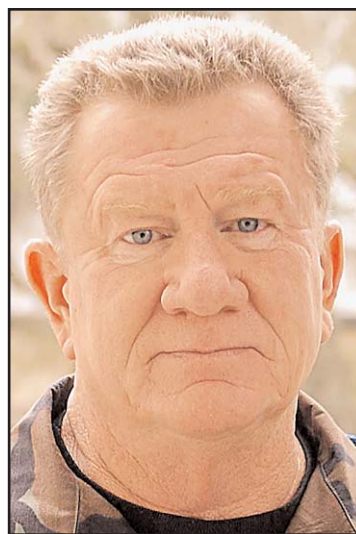
The request for a mock reduction-in-force is sent to the Air Force Personnel Center in May, and results are expected in July, when employees can begin to register with the priority placement program.



Sergeant Harmon



Sergeant Sciortino



Sergeant Black

# Future warriors trained by Purple Heart recipients

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Two Keesler trainers share a common bond — they're combat veterans who've earned the Purple Heart.

Tech. Sgt. Ricky Harmon, 335th Training Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Michael Sciortino, 334th TRS, were recognized earlier this year when the City of Biloxi dedicated its Purple Heart Memorial to honor military members wounded or killed by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

Senior Master Sgt. Jesse Black, who served as Air National Guard liaison to the 81st Training Wing, was also honored. He officially retires June 1 with nearly 36 years of military service. The sergeant earned his Purple Heart while serving in the Army in Southeast Asia from 1969-1973.

Almost nine years ago, Sergeant Harmon was deployed to King Abdul Aziz Air Base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, when a fuel truck exploded, killing 19 Airmen. He was one of several hundred people injured in the 1996 blast.

"I was working as an aerospace ground equipment technician," recalled Sergeant Harmon, a manpower and personnel instructor in Allee Hall since January 2003.

## What's the Purple Heart?

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the world in current use and the first American award made available to the common soldier. The medal bears the profile of Gen. George Washington, who initially created it as the Badge of Military Merit.

The Purple Heart differs from all other individual decorations in that an individual isn't recommended for the decoration — he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria related to enemy-related injuries.

Since 1973, military members have qualified for a Purple Heart as a result



of international terrorist attacks against the United States, foreign nations friendly to the United States or as a result of military operations while serving in a foreign country as part of a peacekeeping force.

"Two men driving a fuel truck attempted to enter the Khobar Towers apartment complex, but were stopped by military security. They parked outside the compound and drove away in another vehicle. A few minutes later, the truck exploded, destroying one building and damaging several others."

The truck bomb blasted a crater 35 feet deep and 85 feet across. Pentagon offi-

cials estimated from the impact that the truck could have been laden with as much as 5,000 pounds of explosives.

In spite of the experience, Sergeant Harmon said he has no regrets about the nearly 16 years he's devoted to the Air Force. However, he's happy to be working in the training environment now.

Please see **Medals**, Page 17

## Medals,

from Page 16

"Being an instructor is a career goal that I've wanted to fulfill since Day 1," he pointed out. "I hope to retire here and continue teaching as a civilian."

Sergeant Sciortino, a combat controller who came to Keesler two years ago, was deployed to Afghanistan in 2001 to open up Mazar-e-Sheriff Airfield to U.S. military and coalition forces aircraft.

"The purpose was to bring in humanitarian aid and replenish supplies for U.S. military and coalition forces," explained Sergeant Sciortino, who served as a medical technician for four years before cross-training to be a combat controller seven years ago.

During the deployment, he traveled through the mountains of Afghanistan on horseback with his team of Green Berets, searching for Taliban and Al-Qaida strongholds. They often slept in caves, drank river water and did without supplies, still advancing to their next objective.

"I recall the overwhelming gratitude we received from the locals as we made our way through northern Afghanistan," he said.

Nov. 24, 2001, a bomb dropped by a fighter jet cut their mission short.

"We were on a particular mission to retrieve the body of a CIA agent in a nearby Afghani fort, only to arrive at a massive battle which needed close air support to suppress the enemy," Sergeant Sciortino remembered.

As the mortar and AK-47 rounds rained in, he maintained posture and continued to call in air strikes. One bomb landed too close to his position, preventing his team from advancing the mission.

Sergeant Sciortino and other members of the team were evacuated to a neighboring country's hospital to receive specialized treatment for blown eardrums, burns and other injuries from the blast.



# Earth-Arbor Day

## recycling competition ends

Earth-Arbor Day squadron recycling competition continues through Friday.

Each load of recyclables turned into the recycling center is weighed and recorded, and a trophy is awarded to the squadron bringing the most total weight of items.

Only cardboard, white paper, clear plastic, newspaper and aluminum cans are counted for the competition.

For more information, call Joe Powell, 377-4546.

Other Earth-Arbor Day events April 21:

**5-kilometer fun run** — 6:30 a.m. For information, call

Linda Marinovich, 377-8380.

**Tree planting** — 9 a.m., child development center. For information, call George Daniel, 377-5823.

**Household hazardous waste turn-in** — For more information, call Paul Pearl, 377-3004.

Public awareness materials are available for the first annual Water Quality Monitoring Day, which details Keesler's storm water initiatives and opportunities for individual participation. For more information, call James Morrison, 377-5800.

## Month of Military Child continues with parade

Keesler's Month of the Military Child continues today at the child development center, with a 10 a.m. parade and Teddy Bear Day.

Other activities:

**Saturday** — 10 a.m., youth activities center ball fields, pitch-hit-run contest, ages 7-14. Children compete to qualify for sectional competition for a chance to compete at the 2005 Major League All-Star Game.

**Monday** — family child care distributes blue ribbons and educational materials to child care providers and parents as part of a child abuse prevention campaign co-sponsored by family advocacy outreach program.

**April 21** — 9 a.m. to noon, child development center,

annual family fun day; parents and guests enjoy games, arts activities and lunch with children

**April 25-May 1** — TV Turn-Off Week; family child care, child development center and youth activities center are encouraging parents and children to turn off the television and get involved in reading, outdoor activities or other family recreation.

**April 26-28** — teddy bear portraits, child development center. Professional photographer takes children's photos for purchase by parents.

For more information on specific events, call family child care, 377-3189; youth activities center, 377-4116; or child development center, 377-2211.

# Keesler Honor Guard — a n inside story



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Former honor guard member Airman Smith, left, looks on as honor guard newcomer Airman 1st Class Asa Oliver IV practices folding an American flag for his instructor, Staff Sgt. Michael DeGuzman.

By Senior Airman Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

More than three months. Thirteen weeks. Ninety-nine days. Two thousand, three hundred and seventy-six hours. One hundred forty-two thousand, five hundred and sixty minutes. Eight million, five hundred fifty-three thousand, six hundred seconds.

It's been more than two months since I finished my tour of duty as a permanent member of the Keesler Honor Guard. During my time as a guardsman, I was on a roller coaster of emotion that would've made the biggest rides at a theme park seem like a merry-go-round.

## First reaction: shock

When I found out I'd been selected for honor guard duty back in October, my first reaction was shock. I didn't know much about the honor guard, just enough to feel I wasn't honor guard material.

Honor guard members always look sharp, move precisely and purposefully, and carry a certain aura about them. I can best describe myself as having two left feet.

My time on the honor guard went through the holidays, which meant I wouldn't be able to go home to Boston for Christmas — something I'd already planned to do. Although I understood my duty came before personal issues, I was still upset.

## One week of training

At Keesler, honor guard newcomers go through a week of initial training on their new duties before becoming permanent members. Each person's responsibilities, along with our teammates' positioning, movements and timing had to be learned, memorized and perfected during that week.

Among the main responsibilities of an honor guardsman are funerals for Air Force active-duty, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and veter-

ans. Honor guard members typically carry a casket draped with an American flag to a specified area. The flag is removed, folded and presented to the family as Taps is played while the guardsmen salute.

Depending on their time in service, retirees also receive a 21-gun salute from a firing party — at Keesler, the same members who carried the casket.

## Felt like a second-grader

During training week, I felt like a second-grader trying to learn an advanced theory of quantum physics. Most of the other team members seemed to be getting the hang of things, but my expression was blank whenever I was asked what I was supposed to do. It was one of the most frustrating weeks of my life.

A state of panic set in when I realized our team's week of training was over and we were now the permanent team and expected to start performing details. There was no way we were all going to perform properly and look like a precision unit, which is exactly how an honor guard unit is always expected to perform.

Time wasn't on our side.

## On sidelines

Anger set in as I realized I was in a bad situation. Who puts a person in a position where there's no chance to succeed? Who just throws people into a job they're not equipped or prepared to do? Why are we expected to perfect and properly execute such an enormous amount of complex procedures in such a short period of time?

The rest of the team began to do details the following week. I was unable to perform with them as I'd sent my honor guard service coat to the cleaners and it hadn't come back yet. Frustration set in as I saw the members of my team come together and perform without me.

I felt like an injured athlete watching helpless from the sidelines as his team excelled in his absence.

But, sometimes negatives can turn into positives. I was able to watch things as they were supposed to be done and began to feel confident I'd be able to perform whenever I was called. Seeing my team from the sideline allowed me to break down just what I was supposed to do instead of looking at 10 different people doing 10 different things.

Finally, my honor guard jacket was ready. So was I. I was both excited and nervous. Mostly, I felt like a part of the team.

## Blurry first detail

My first detail was a blur. I don't remember much about it, where it was, how I did or even taking a breath through the entire ceremony.

Of course, the more details we did, the easier it seemed, although the anxiety was still there each time. We usually did the exact same movements in the exact same positions, over and over, time after time, so it became almost automatic.

I was fortunate to be able to present the American flag to the spouse of a deceased military member. It was difficult to maintain my military bearing as the spouse was crying. It took everything I had to keep myself from crying.

## Was it worth it?

As my time as a guardsman came to a close, I thought back on everything and realized I'd experienced a lot in a short period. I not only survived, I succeeded at something I was all but convinced I couldn't do. Along the way, I had the opportunity to honor those who served before me in a very direct and personal way.

Funny how time flies ...



# KEESLER NOTES

## Minimal manning

Friday, the 81st Transportation Squadron is minimally manned due to a squadron function.

For more information, call Capt. Patrick Launey, 377-7824; 1st Lt. James Lovell, 377-5648; Tech. Sgt. Mark Harrell, 377-2293; or vehicle dispatch, 377-2430.

## Texas Hold 'Em

The next round of Texas Hold 'Em is 7 p.m. Friday at the Keesler Community Center.

Warm-up rounds begin at 6 p.m.

The top eight players from each round secure their spot in the championship round May 19. The grand prize is a seven-night, eight-day Armed Forces Vacation Club trip and a \$100 gas card.

To register, call 377-8313, or e-mail keeslerpoker@mail.com.

## Plants for sale

The commissary plant sale is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 29-30.

## Auction

The Keesler Officers Spouses Club and the 81st Medical Center Officers Spouses Club plan a social and auction, April 29 at the Keesler Club.

The silent auction begins at 6 p.m., followed by the open auction at 7:30.

Deadline for pledges or auction donations is Saturday. For more information, call Angie Cook, 374-7111 or e-mail bostoncooks@hotmail.com.

For information or tickets, call Rocio Nadolski, 374-1399 or e-mail KOSpousesClub@hotmail.com.

## Operation Hero

Operation Hero is 9 a.m. to noon April 30 at the deployment facility.

Children ages 5 and up of Keesler active-duty and civilians are invited to learn about what parents do while deployed.

Each child receives a personalized photo identification badge, Operation Hero dog tags, a "certificate of survival" and a bag of giveaways.

Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult or designated caregiver.

Lunch is provided. Space is limited.

To enroll your child, call the family support center, 377-2179.

## Penny rush

The Rising VI is ready to kick off its second annual Penny Rush to benefit Fisher House.

Last year, with the assistance of the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 652, \$8,000 was collected.

Volunteers are needed to collect donations. The drive ends the first week of June.

For more information, call Senior Airman Nathan Peterson, 377-2256.

## New MPF hours

New duty hours for relocations, retirements and separations at the military personnel flight:

**Appointments only** — 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-working Fridays.

**Walk-ins** — noon to 4 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Shirley Bailey, 377-2244.

## DRMO withdrawals

All withdrawals from Defense Reutilization and Management Offices must be processed through the base chief of supply.

Organizations aren't authorized to withdraw items directly from any DRMO by using the Defense Reutilization and Management Service Web site.

For more information, call George Contas, 81st Supply Squadron, 377-2360.

## New waste facility

A new hazardous waste accumulation facility is open in Building 4420 in the old Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office compound on Parade Lane just off Ploesti Drive.

Hazardous waste such as fluorescent lamps, batteries, mercury-containing thermostats, pesticides and aerosol cans are now turned here, rather than the base recycling center.

Except from 9-10 a.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month, turn-ins must be coordinated by calling 377-5802 or 348-0321, or e-mailing thomas.minton@keesler.af.mil.

For more information, call Paul Pearl, 377-3004.

# SPORTS AND RECREATION

## Keesler hoops' team, players rule command Dragons take first at AETC tournament

By Senior Airman  
Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

The Keesler varsity basketball team, as well as individuals, earned top honors at the Air Education and Training Command basketball championships April 1-3 at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

Keesler defeated the team from Lackland AFB, in their third meeting of the tournament, 91-82, to win it all.

### First meeting

Keesler lost to Lackland, 64-52, earlier in the day to force the second game.

In the team's first meeting of the tournament, Keesler earned a 64-52 victory.

### Valuable performance

The Dragons' Kenneth Dukes was named most valuable player honors by averaging 15 points per game in the double-elimination tournament.

Dukes was also victorious during the competition's three-point shootout between members of each tournament's teams.

The Dragons' Sedrick Whitaker made it to the finals of the tournament's slam-dunk competition.

### Head dragon

The Dragons are led by head coach Jesse Harris, 81st Medical Group.



"Overall, I thought we did pretty well in the tournament," Harris said. "After all, the AETC tournament was the first time we had played against any other competition in over a month, and we were the smallest team in the tournament (Keesler's tallest player is 6 feet, 4 inches while the other teams in the tournament had players at least 6 feet, 8 inches or more); yet we came out on top of everyone else."

### Size doesn't matter

Harris said that the size disadvantage they faced throughout was not a factor in the tourney.

"It was evident during the championship game," he said. "I thought our team had a lot of experience, but Lackland's team also had experience (and a size advantage). It was a tough game as expected; the difference was that guys simply refused to lose that game and the title."

### Out with a bang

The tournament marked the end of a successful 2004-2005 season for the Dragons.

"I can't argue with the results we had throughout the year: first place at a tournament held at Robins AFB, Ga., first place at another tournament in Eglin AFB, Fla., and to top it off, first place at the end of season AETC tournament at Randolph," he said. "This team was a pleasure to coach and I can't wait for next year."

### Roll call

The members of the Keesler team are Wallace Smith, 81st Dental Squadron; Leviticus Robinson, 81st Transportation Squadron; Tavares Simpson, 81st Communications Squadron, Chris



Geiger and Dukes, both from the 333rd Training Squadron; James Burnett and Mitchell Howard, both from Naval Station Pascagoula; Jensen Turner and Aaron Butts, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron; and Henry Goldsmith and Whitaker, from the 81st Medical Operations Squadron.

The assistant coach for the team was Henry Watson, 81st TRANS, and Geraldine Stone, also from 81st TRANS, was the statistician.

### How it was done

During the tournament, the Dragons defeated Altus AFB, Okla., by a score of 93-70. The leading scorer in that game for Keesler was Burnett with 24 points.

Keesler also handed a defeat to Randolph AFB, 73-70. Dukes and Whitaker each scored 19.

In the two victories over Lackland, Geiger was high man in the championship game with 26 points and Whitaker lead the way in the first victory with a 17 point effort.

Senior Airman Chris Powell, Sheppard Senator sports editor, contributed to this article.



# Academy athletes excel

## Three Falcon boxers crowned champions

**Air Force Print News**  
AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Three members of the Air Force Academy boxing team were crowned national champions during the final round of the National Collegiate Boxing Association championships April 2 at the academy.

Willie Lloyd, Darren Smith and Blake Baldi all earned gold medals in their weight classes.

As a team, the Falcons finished second with 40 points, just two points shy of overall tournament winner Navy with 42 points.

Army rounded out the trio of service academies with a third-place finish of 29 points.

While the standing snaps the Falcons' streak of six straight team titles, the Air Force Boxing Team continues its commanding streak of no finish lower than second.

Besides the three gold, the Falcons' boxing team also earned two silver medals and four bronze medals.

## Twenty-two year Falcon record broken

**Air Force Print News**  
AIR FORCE ACADEMY,



Colo. — Jami Hodge bested a 22-year old Air Force Academy record in the 200-meter dash at the Falcon Open on April 2.

Hodge ran the race in 24.46 seconds to beat the previous mark of 24.81 set in 1983 by former Falcon Gail Conway.

With the record, Hodge becomes the only person, other than Conway, to hold any of the dash records and the 800-meter run record.

## Falcons' swimmer compete at worlds

**Air Force Print News**  
INDIANAPOLIS — At the 2005 World Championship Swimming Trials, Air Force Academy swimmer Chris Knaute placed 19th in the 400 meter freestyle finals April 2.

Knaute, the 2005 Mountain West Conference Men's Swimmer of the Year, swam the distance in 4 minutes, 2.62 seconds.

As the weather  
begins to heat up,  
remember to drink  
lots of water  
before, during and  
after exercising.

# SCORES AND MORE

## Advisory Council

**Meeting** — 2 p.m. Wednesday at Vandenberg Community Center. Council has direct input on varsity and intramural athletics on base. For more information, call Terry Greer at 377-2907.

## Basketball

**Editor's note:** For questions about schedules or standings, call Jim Grubb, 377-2444 or visit <http://www.eteamz.com/keeslerafb>. All games are played at Blake Fitness Center.

### American League (Final standings)

Team	Won	Lost
81st CES-A	12	2
333rd TRS	11	3
81st MSS	10	4
332nd TRS	10	4
81st CS	9	5
81st MDOS-B	9	5
738th EIS	5	8
81st DS	4	10
CNATTU	3	11
338th TRS-B	2	12
332nd TRS-B	1	12

### National League (Final standings)

Team	W	L	T
338th TRS-A	10	3	0
334th TRS	10	3	0
81st MDOS-A	9	3	0
335th TRS	6	5	1
81st SUPS-TRNS-CONS	6	7	0
81st SFS	5	8	0
81st CES-B	0	11	1
336th TRS	0	6	0

**April 5** — 335th TRS vs. 81st MDOS (no score posted); 338th TRS-A 52, 334th TRS 45.

### Over-30 Pride League (As of Monday)

Team	Won	Lost
81st MDG	11	1
81st CES	10	3
338th TRS	8	4
333rd TRS	6	6
45th AS	6	7
336th TRS	3	10
VA Medical Center	2	11

**April 5** — 333rd TRS 64, 45th AS 44.

### Playoffs

**Intramural championship game** — Tuesday.

**Pride League tournament** — Wednesday through April 25.

All games are played at the Blake Fitness Center.

## Bowling

**Editor's note:** For more information, call Gaudé Lanes, 377-2817.

**Birthday parties** — 2-6 p.m. Saturdays. Reservations required. For more information, call 377-2817.

**Hurricane Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling** — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

**Youth special** — ages 17 and younger bowl for \$1 a game anytime except during Hurricane Alley.

**Non-prior service students** — show your UBU card and receive a discount for open bowling and

Hurricane Alley.

**Play and save cards** — bowl 21 games for \$25.

**Bowl-a-rama** — open to 4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays bowl two hours for \$8.95. 4 p.m. to closing Mondays-Saturdays, all day Sundays, bowl two hours \$9.95.

## Fitness

**Editor's note:** For more information, call Blake Fitness Center, 377-4385; Dragon Fitness Center, 377-2907, and Triangle Fitness Center, 377-3056.

**Varsity teams** — players and coaches are needed for both volleyball and softball teams. Interested members can sign up at either the Blake or Triangle Fitness centers.

**Sports physicals** — pediatric clinic provides sports physicals for school-age students. To schedule, call the TRICARE appointment line, 1-800-700-8603.

### Blake Fitness Center

**Aerobic workout tapes** — available for free checkout and use in the facility. For more information, call 377-4409.

**Fitness assessments** — appointments only. For more information, call 377-4385.

### Dragon Fitness Center

**Parent-child fitness room** — open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays. Workout equipment and play area for ages 6 months to 7 years available.

**Aerobics** — variety of free classes offered at Dragon Fitness Center to accommodate most fitness levels. For more information, call 377-4409.

### Triangle Fitness Center

**Muscle Mania** — 10 a.m. Saturday at the Triangle Fitness Center. Squat, dead lift and bench press competition.

**Squat, dead lift, bench press wall of fame** — best lifters in each weight category and gets photo on the wall of fame and free T-shirt. Competitions are 5 p.m. working Fridays.

## Golf

**Editor's note:** For more information, call Bay Breeze Golf Course, 377-3832.

**Second Annual Mississippi Special Olympics Golf tournament** — noon, April 21. Cost is \$35 per person. Four person select shot. For more information, call 377-1694.

**Intramural golf championship** — April 28 at 1 p.m. at Bay Breeze.

**Honor Guard golf tournament** — noon, May 12. Cost is \$35 per person, including lunch. For more information, call Jim Taylor, 377-2081 or Reginald Cobb, 377-1986.

**Bring two, golf free program** — sponsor two or more guests, receive 18 holes of free. Guest fee \$25. For more information, call 377-3832.

**Free golf lessons for novice golfers** — 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays. Sign-up in the pro shop. Maximum 15.

**Free golf lessons for non prior service students** — noon to 1 p.m.

Saturdays. Sign up in the pro shop. Maximum 20.

**Individual lessons** — \$25 for 30 minutes.

**Disks for disk golf** — available for rent or purchase at outdoor recreation. For more information, call 377-3160.

## Outdoor recreation

**Editor's note:** For more information, call 377-3160 or 3186.

**Boat slip rental** — boats up to 20 feet \$50 per month; 20-50 feet \$2.50 per foot. Power and water included.

**Pontoon boat training** — test and certification and is necessary to rent a pontoon boat.

**Fishing trips to oil rigs** — available by appointment only. For more information, call 377-3160.

## Softball

**Editor's note:** For more information, call Jim Grubb, 377-2444.

**Sports advisory council meeting** — 2 p.m. Wednesday, Vandenberg Community Center.

**Deadline** — Friday is deadline for men's and women's softball signup. Players signup and tryout sheets at Blake and Triangle Fitness centers.

**Clinic** — 5:30-8 p.m. April 28, Vandenberg Community Center. Open to all players to learn softball rules. For more information, call Jim Grubb, 377-2444.

## Volleyball

**Editor's note:** For more information, call Jim Grubb, 377-3056.

**Submissions** — deadline for submitting resumes/qualifications for varsity men's and women's volleyball and softball coaching positions is today.

**Deadline** — for men's and women's volleyball signup Friday. Players signup and tryout sheets at Blake and Triangle fitness centers.

## Weather

Intramural sports officials have until 3 p.m. on game day to postpone or cancel games. If the weather becomes a safety issue after 3 p.m., the officiating crew makes the decision about whether games will be played by 6 p.m.

## Youth activities center

**Youth sports program** — for information on registrations for upcoming sports programs, call 377-4116.

**Instructional classes** — karate, ages 5 and older; gymnastics, ages 3 and older. For more information, call 377-4116.

**Taekwondo** — 6:30-7:30 p.m. for children, Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call Michael Munyon, 239-6270.

# DIGEST

## HONORS

### Student honor roll

#### 332nd Training Squadron

**Basic electronic principles** — Airmen Basic Antonio Aros, Gordon Boyer, Christopher Carrothers, Curtis Claude, Jeffrey Cuevas, Gregory Cunningham, Jeffrey Cummings, Christopher Hutchison, Jerrell Jackson, Reese Jones, Lukus Kipfer, Daniel Loose, Larry Luginbill, Matthew Lyons, Ryan Massey, Kevin Miller, Joshua Moyers, Andrew Nichols, Phu Pham, David Richards, Ronnie Sutphin, Eric White and Brionne Wokurka; Airmen Jacob Larson, Leslie Manhoo, Stephen McElroy, Anthony Sharpe, Gregory Terrell and Jacob Whitney; Airmen 1st Class Austin Adams, Heath Allred, Jesse Barna, Allan Batzel, Adam Benton, Glenn Bishop, Jason Bloss, Johanthon Bowers, Jaydee Britton, Jeremy Cheatam, Kenneth Colvin, Tracey Coon, Ross Danaher, Jordan Fitzgerald, Andrew Foust, Ryan Fox, Darren Gray, Michael Goulet, Jeffrey Hamlin, David Jones, Zachary Kell, Joshua Kelly, Benjamin Kratoska, Jeffrey Lanska, Peter Lujan, Marshall Nix, Heath Peterson, Michael Phillips, Brentt Smith, David Sosa, Keith St. Laurent, Brandon Strickland, Bradley Thompson and Cory Williams; Senior Airmen Brian Broussard, Robert Conly, Alexander Finn, William Nicholson, Michael Norman, Vincent Olshove, Jason Paraiso, Jeremiah Planas, David Rivers, Russell Simmons, Derek White and Ronald White; Staff Sgts. Robert Hathaway, Daniel Kratzer, Lawrence Litzinger, Daniel Newman, Justin Thornton and Benjamin Wallis; Tech. Sgts. Scott Coil and Lionel Price; Chief Master Sgt. Brice Miebe.

#### 334th TRS

**Air traffic control operations training flight** — Airmen Basic Mark Armstrong, Brady Bush, Ashley Clark, Jessica Corrales, Paul Dickey, Joshua Shorter-Ivey, Simon Malson, Jerry McKinney, Sean Mullins, Steven Pietras, Joel Sines, Benjamin Sullins and Michelle White; Airmen 1st Class Erik Aarness, Jonathan Anderson, Tyler Blanchard, Noah Dunlap, Daniel Mang, James Marzullo, Tanner Morgan, Jacob Poulliot, Jason Stegmann and Shane Wilkinson; Senior Airman Kevin Hennelly and Nicholas Vanni; Staff Sgts. Steven Adamic, Marell Ducksworth, David Iglesias, Darrel Johnson and Rodney Martin.

#### 335th TRS

**Comptroller training flight** — Airmen 1st Class Johnelle Duncan, Joel Gardner, Yevgeniy Leokumovich, Jeanine Mayo and Beau Westmoreland; Senior Airmen Janice Cordell, John Dotter, Jeffrey Gillespie, Jordan Knotts, Adam Paulsen, Jeffrey Porter, Nicole Taylor and Matthew Tucker; Staff Sgts. Scott McLaughlin, Anthony Pounds, Dale Ramirez, Salvador Talamo and Aubrey Valentine; Tech. Sgt. Lucas Terry; Master Sgt. Doyle Carlson.

**Weather training flight** — Airmen Basic John Apple, Christopher Bieber, Jere Gossert, Adam Gradyan, Jeremy Heins, Deborah Johnson, Michael Lacey, Justin Ray, Nathaniel Rohaly, Jesse Sewelson, Alan Stringer and Eric Tidd; Navy Airmen Recruit Derek Jersey and Michael McCall; Marine Pvt. Josh Watson; Airmen Lyndsey Cash, Christie Crossley, David Drainer and Lewis Phillips; Navy Airmen Apprentice Andrew Fletcher, David Fritts, Kevin Jepsen, Rafael Medina, Titus Stone and Chad Watkins; Airmen 1st Class Joshua Brueggen, Geoffrey Davies, David Green, Anthony Hartman, Jonathan Maxwell and Jason Pierce; Navy Airmen Crystal Casey, Nicholas Chancey, Michael Davis, Alicia Faires, Jeffery Herold, Gregory Kossuth, Michael Mancinik, Christopher Nunez, Seth Parsons, Jeremy Snyder, Tonya Swecker, Mark Swift, Kristi Turner and Sarah Vogel; Senior Airmen Jesse Lundberg, Chett Tyson and Eric Villafranca; Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Bryan Sebring; Staff Sgts. William Acevedo, Andrew Narog and Nikki Rush; Tech. Sgts. Robert Browder, Carleton Citrine, Joseph Dailey, James Everhart, Brent Henke, Scott Jennings and Eric Twitty; Hungarian Air Force Master Sgt. Laszlo Balazs; Master Sgt. David White.

#### 336th TRS

**Communications-computer systems training flight** — Airmen Basic Robert Feaster and James Medina; Airman Matthew Ridgeway.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

### Roman Catholic

#### Sunday Mass

Medical Center Chapel.....Sacrament of Reconciliation, 8 a.m.  
Medical Center Chapel .....8:30 a.m.  
Triangle Chapel.....Sacrament of Reconciliation, 9:30 a.m.  
Triangle Chapel.....10 a.m.

#### Weekday Masses

Medical Center Chapel .....11:15 a.m.  
Fishbowl.....Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

#### Sunday religious education

September-May.....8:30 a.m.  
Classes held at the former chapel located at corner of H and 2nd streets. For class schedules, call 377-4625.

### Islamic

**Building 2003** — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

### Orthodox

**Holy Trinity Church (Greek Orthodox)** — 255 Beauvoir Road, Biloxi; Divine Liturgy, 10:30 a.m. Sunday. For more information, call 388-6138.

**St. Mary's Church (Eastern Orthodox)** — 3224 D Ave., Gulfport. For more information, call 864-1568.

### Jewish

**Beth Israel Synagogue** — 1946 Southern Avenue, Biloxi. Services 8 p.m. Fridays; an Oneg Shabbat follows each service. For more information, call 388-5574 or visit cbibiloxi@juno.com.

### Latter-Day Saints

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** — student group service, 2 p.m. Sundays, Triangle Chapel. Student family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl. For more information, call 374-5627.

**Biloxi Ward** — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays, 14928 Big Ridge Road, North Biloxi. For more information, call 435-9506.

### Protestant

#### Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.  
Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.  
Larcher Chapel praise and worship service.....11:15 a.m.  
Triangle Chapel gospel service.....11:30 a.m.

#### Sunday religious education

September-May.....10 a.m.  
Classes held at the former chapel located at corner of H and 2nd streets. For class schedules, call 377-2520 or 4625.

**Prayer service for peace** — noon Wednesdays, Larcher Chapel. For more information, call 377-4861.

#### 338th TRS

**Computer, network, cryptographic and switching systems course** — Airmen Basic Brian Anderson, Krystina Bencscoter, Zacharias Goudie, Travis Meyer and Christopher Murphy; Airman Chrystopher Beck; Airmen 1st Class Anthony Broderick, Joshua Heim, Jason Katryniuk, Thomas Olaes, Thomas Rentschler, Jeremy Slabaugh, Robert Spain and Shaun Wehe; Senior Airmen Jeffrey Kilby and Jesse Wilson; Staff Sgts. Christy McGuffee, Tristan Pana, Frank Perez and Antonie Stewart; Tech. Sgt. Paul Calderone.

**Ground radio flight** — Airmen Basic Richard Boothe, David Borquez, Joshua McClanathan, Douglas Newey, David Storm and Steven Sweden; Airmen Justin Broussard, Benjamin Dawley, Kenneth Grose and Steven Meschkat; Airmen 1st Class Kyle Abrahamsen, Benjamin Davis, Jamie Devault, Austin Dohm, Stefan Gonser, Brad Harr, Seth Hogan, Calvin Jordan, Thomas Kneller, Joshua McGoron, Jesse Mulalley, Daniel Perkins, James Regan, Robert Sandbothe Jr., Adam Smith, Sandon Viers, Jarrod Wetherill and Christopher Wolff; Senior Airmen Nathan Reilly

and William Strickland; Staff Sgts. Jon Goe and William Sitterle.

**Radar systems flight** — Airmen 1st Class Daniel Beurer III, Theodore Donald, Roger Girtman II, Raymond Heil and Steven O'Leary; Senior Airman Joseph Gagnon; Staff Sgt. Brian Fitzgerald; 2nd Lts. Andrej Gerjivic and Jose Tercero.

## PROMOTIONS

### 2005 Air Force Personnel Center boards

**May 16-27** — senior noncommissioned officer supplemental.

**July 6-21** — lieutenant colonel line, JAG, BASC, MSC, NC.

**July 25-29** — senior noncommissioned officer supplemental.

**Aug. 2-12** — blocked.

**Aug. 15-26** — command screening.

**Sept. 12-23** — colonel line, JAG, BASC, MSC, NC.

**Sept. 26-30** — special selection.

**Oct. 4-6** — blocked.

**Oct. 11-21** — chief master sergeant evaluation.

**Oct. 25-27** — Air National Guard colonel, second session.

**Nov. 14-18** — colonel, lieutenant colonel and major MC, DC.

**Dec. 5-16** — major line, CHAP, JAG, BSC, MSC.

## TRICARE

**Beneficiary services** — active duty and dependents enroll at Keesler Medical Center, Room 4B-107, 377-9962. To enroll in TRI-CARE Prime, retirees and their dependents call 1-800-444-5445 or visit the TRICARE Service Center, 2130 Pass Road, Biloxi, 385-6650.

**Claims services** — 1-800-403-3950.

**“Urgent” after hours primary care manager access** — 1-877-794-4629.

**Health benefits/beneficiary counseling, debt collection assistance** — call Carolyn James, 377-6580, or Linda Davis, 377-6001. Ms. James is in Room 4B-106 and Ms. Davis is in Room 4B-105 in Keesler Medical Center.

**Education center for women** — in women's health services at Keesler Medical Center, offers educational tools for women's health issues. TV/VCR, interactive touch screen computer and multimedia computer connected to the Internet are available for personal viewing; videos may be viewed in the clinic or checked out for home use. Walk-ins welcome. For appointments, call 1-800-700-8603. For more information, call 377-6920 or 6921.

**Keesler Medical Center clinic hours** — family practice, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. Urgent care, pediatric clinic hours, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**On the Web** — Keesler Medical Center's Web site is <http://www.keesler.af.mil/81mdg>. For TRICARE information, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>. For Region South information, visit the Humana Military Healthcare Services Web site, <http://www.humana-military.com>.

**TRICARE Service Center** — 2130 Pass Road, Biloxi, 385-6650. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

## CLASSES

### Airman Leadership School

**Class 05-D** — April 25-May 31.

### Keesler NCO Academy

**Class 05-4** — Tuesday through May 26.

### First Term Airmen Center

**Class 05-8** — Monday through April 21.

### Chapel

**Book of Acts adult Bible study** — 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays at the former chapel located at corner of H and 2nd streets. For more information, call David Moore, 594-0072.

**Women's Bible study** — 10 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at the

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former chapel located at corner of H and 2nd streets. Topic is Beth Moore’s “Breaking Free.” Child care available. For more information, call Bonnie Nikolaus, 818-9412.

## Keesler Medical Center

**Shaving clinic** — pseudofolliculitis evaluations 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays.

**Allergy/immunization clinic** — 7 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays. For more information, call 377-6543.

**International travel clinic** — weekly appointments available; schedule at least three weeks before a planned trip. Travelers should provide a list of destinations when they book an appointment and bring their immunization record to the appointment. For appointment, call Pat Baugh, 377-6166.

## McBride Library

**Orientations** — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and April 27.

**Poetry readings for young people** — 2-4 p.m. Sunday for ages 2-6.

**Story time for infants** — 10 a.m. April 27.

**National garden month** — book display throughout the month.

**Exchange books** — change one for one.

**Orientations/volunteer work** — for more information, call 377-2181.

## Arts and crafts center

**Ceramic painting** — free brushstrokes class Tuesday and Mother’s Day plate April 23. For more information, call 377-2821.

**Advanced beading** — Saturday or 23, \$30 plus a \$15-20 supply kit. For class times, call 377-2821.

**One-stroke beginner painting** — 1-3 p.m. Saturday. \$40 including most supplies.

**One-stroke project class** — 1-3 p.m. Saturday. \$25 including most supplies; beginner class is prerequisite.

**Advanced matting** — 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 22. \$20 including supplies; beginning class is prerequisite.

**Beginner cake decorating** — 1 p.m. April 23. \$10.

**Beginning intarsia woodworking** — 5-7 p.m. Friday. \$15 including supplies and tool use; maximum three students.

**Advanced intarsia woodworking** — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. \$20 including supplies and tool use. Maximum three students.

**Parent and me ceramics** — 10 a.m. Saturday, ages 4-7. \$10 including supplies.

**Nonprior service student special** — 1 p.m. April 22, Fish-bowl. Make Mother’s Day card for \$1 with UBU card.

**Family fun night** — 6 p.m. April 26. Make a soap/bath salt gift. \$10 per child with adult, including supplies.

**Wood shop special** — come in and make something for Mother’s Day and receive two hours of free shop use.

**Giveaways** — each time you use the multi-craft shop in April, you earn an entry for a ceramic birdhouse to be given away April 30.

# TRANSITIONS

## Workshops, briefings

**Transition assistance three-day workshop** — 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 9-11, June 6-8, July 11-13, Aug. 8-10, Sept. 12-14, Oct. 3-5, Nov. 7-9 and Dec. 5-7, Room 130, Sablich Center. To preregister or for more information, call 377-8591 or 8592 or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

**Retirement and veterans briefing** — 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 6, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, Room 130, Sablich Center. To preregister or for more information, call 377-8591 or 8592.

**PALACE Chase information briefings** — 10 a.m. first and third Tuesday of each month, Room 216, Sablich Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tony Woods, 377-7116.

**Health care professionals** — needed by the Air Force Reserve. Critical Air Force Specialty Codes available in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida units are 44M3, 44Y3, 46F3, 46P3, 47G3, and 48R3. Some may be eligible for signing bonus or loan repayment.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. George Adams, health professions recruiter, 377-8332, or e-mail george.adams@keesler.af.mil.

**Barnes Air National Guard Base, Mass.** — Airmen who’ve completed their enlistment and don’t have a military service obligation may qualify for \$15,000 enlistment bonus in the Massachusetts Air National Guard. For more information, call 1-800-247-9151, DSN 698-1567 or e-mail recruiting@mabarn.ang.af.mil.

## Employment assistance

**Employment Network Center** — 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 3:45 a.m. working Fridays, Room 126, Sablich Center. National and local job search information and Internet computer access for active-duty and military family members, free e-mail service, fax service and computers and laser printers to complete resumes and federal job applications. For more information, visit Room 126, Sablich Center, or call 377-8593 or 8592.

## Web sites

**Defense Manpower Data Center** — <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dors> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tbb>.

**Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray** — <http://www.blue.togray.com>.

**America’s Job Bank** — <http://www.ajb.dni.us>.

**Air Force Federal Employment Resume and Information** — <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb>.

**Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for military personnel and veterans** — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

**Department of Veterans Affairs** — <http://www.vba.va.gov/efif/index.htm>; for members returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

**Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair** — <http://www.mesc.state.ms.us/jobfair>.

**New military spouse career center** — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including jobs from public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

## Computer use

**Government computers** — commanders may authorize their use for the preparation of personal resumes by people separating or retiring from the service on an “as available” basis as long as use of the equipment for the purpose doesn’t adversely affect the mission.

**Transition employment opportunities public folder** — go to e-mail “public folders” and click on “transition employment opportunities” for job opportunities for active duty and family members. For more information, call 377-8592 or 8593.

# CLUBS AND CENTERS

## Keesler Community Center

**Texas Hold’em (all ranks)** — 7 p.m. Friday, April 29 and May 13; grand finale May 19. \$4 Keesler Club members; \$7 for all others. For more information, call 377-8313.

**Youth and adult guitar lessons** — half-hour lessons, 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. \$55 per month. For appointment, call 377-3308.

**Piano lessons** — 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, ages 5 through adult. For fee information, call 377-3308.

**Weight Watchers** — 5:45 p.m. Thursdays; weigh-in 5:15 p.m.

**Coloring contest** — pick up coloring/activity sheet; submit entry no later than 4 p.m. April 20.

## Vandenberg Community Center

**Eight-ball pool tournament** — 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays

**Nine-ball pool tournament** — 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

**Karaoke** — 6 p.m. Thursdays before non working Fridays.

**Late night dance and DJ** — 6 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays. \$3. People with April birthdays show their ID card and get in free the third Friday of the month.

**CyberSports Internet game center** — now open. For more information, call 377-4519.

## Youth activities center

**Friday teen night** — 6:30-10 p.m., ages 13-18. \$5. Games, activities, movies and special events; register by Wednesday of each week.

**Preteen night** — 5:30-9 p.m. Saturdays, ages 6-12. \$5.

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# DINING FACILITIES MENUS

## Today

**Lunch** — herb baked chicken, cornbread, stuffed cabbage rolls, fried catfish, blackeyed peas and rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, baked sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

**Dinner** — roast pork loin, cornbread, jaegerschnitzel veal with mushroom sauce, glazed cornish hen, potato halves, orange rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

## Friday

**Lunch** — Mexican baked chicken, Swiss steak, garlic toast, stuffed peppers, macaroni and cheese, garlic toast, steamed rice, gravy, corn on the cob, Spanish beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chicken chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

**Dinner** — lasagna, spaghetti and meat sauce, Italian sweet sausage, garlic toast, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli polonaise, cauliflower, Italian baked beans, pasta salad, three-bean salad, cornbread, clam chowder, vegetable soup, chicken chili, corn O’Brien, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

## Saturday

**Lunch** — crispy baked chicken, cajun meatloaf, ribeye steak, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, French peas, glazed carrots, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

**Dinner** — fish almonidine, stir-fry chicken with broccoli, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, calico corn, club spinach, fried okra, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

## Sunday

**Lunch** — tuna and noodles, sauerbraten, chicken breast filet parmesan, au gratin potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, peas, fried cabbage, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

**Dinner** — ginger barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, spinach lasagna, orange rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, black-eyed peas, lima beans, corn O’Brien, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

## Monday

**Lunch** — Swiss steak, baked chicken, baked Italian sweet sausage, peppers and onions, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, cornbread, broccoli polanaise, carrots, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

**Dinner** — roast turkey, baked ham, raisin sauce, fish and fries, cornbread, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, succotash, tempura vegetables, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

## Tuesday

**Lunch** — onion lemon baked fish, pork schnitzel steak, beef and spaghetti, garlic toast, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans, spinach, stewed tomatoes, spinach salad, waldorf salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup and steak and cheese subs.

**Dinner** — paprika beef, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, O’Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, waldorf salad, spinach salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

## Wednesday

**Lunch** — fried chicken, cajun baked fish, barbecue ribs, rice, jalapeno cornbread, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, okra and tomato gumbo, fried cabbage, coleslaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

**Dinner** — pita pizzas, country style steak, fried chicken, jalapeno cornbread, oven brown potatoes, mashed potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, bean combo, cabbage, coleslaw, cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

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Games, activities, movies and special events; register by Wednesday of each week.

**Free pitch, hit and run contest** — 10 a.m. Saturday, youth activities center ball fields. For more information, call 377-4116.

**Summer camp opportunities** — registrations accepted now for summer camp for those completing grades K-6; counselor-in-training program, summer youth volunteers and youth employment skills program. For more information, call 377-4116.

**F-4 Fit For Fun Force** — promotes fitness for ages 9-18; four team levels. For more information, visit <http://www.f4-kids.com>.

**Karate** — 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, ages 6 and older. \$30.

**Gymnastics** — Mondays and Wednesdays, ages 3 and older. \$30 per month. Call for times and age groups.

**Dance** — Tuesdays or Thursdays, ages 3 and older. \$30 per month. Call for times and age groups.

**Training responsible adolescents in leadership/Keystone Club** — 6-7 p.m. Mondays, ages 13-18.

## Keesler Club

**Editor's note: Dining is open to all ranks.**

**Family night** — 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday. Buffet, games, music, show, prizes.

**Mongolian barbecue** — 5:30-8 p.m. April 28.

**Lunch buffet** — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays, except holidays. Mongolian barbecue Mondays, ribs Tuesday, ethnic Wednesdays, catfish the last working day of each week.

**Wednesday night special** — 4:30 p.m. until they're gone, free wings and things for club members; \$3 nonmembers. Drink specials and progressive pot cash giveaway for members.

## Enlisted Warrior Lounge

**NASCAR race watch parties (all ranks)** — Sunday and April 23; call for times. Food and drink specials, prize giveaways. Club members register to win a trip for two to a major NASCAR event.

**Hot dogs** — \$1 Mondays through Saturdays.

**Pinochle (all ranks)** — 7 p.m. Tuesdays.

**Karaoke night** — 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Fridays.

**Latino night** — April 22. 7-8 p.m. dance lessons. 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. DJ. Drink specials

**Club level 1** — 9 p.m. till, Saturdays.

**Urban nights** — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays before non-working Fridays.

**Snack and drink specials** — 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Progressive pot cash giveaway Wednesdays for members.

# TICKETS AND TRAVEL

**Bellingrath Gardens in Alabama** — April 23. \$40 per person; register and prepay no later than April 20. Depart Keesler at 9 a.m., return at 5 p.m.

# VOLUNTEERS

**Editor's note: Included are base organizations, events, training orientation and other information for volunteers. For more information on opportunities in the surrounding communities, call Jackie Pope, 377-8590.**

**Airmen Against Drunk Driving** — for mor information, call Staff Sgt. Shironda Gilchrist, 377-4477.

**American Red Cross-Keesler Chapter** — provides volunteers for disaster assistance and other emergency responses. Training is provided and skills are matched with current needs. For more information, call Richard Huffman Sr., 377-3030.

**Chapel** — for more information, call 377-2520.

**Civil Air Patrol, Col. Berta A. Edge Composite Squadron** — 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Room 210, Hangar 3. For more information, call Lt. Col. Linda Steel-Goodwin, 377-7152 or 436-3353, or CAP 1st Lt. Hank Rogers, commander for seniors, 435-6270.

**Cub Scout Pack 214** — for more information, call Staff Sgt.

Christian Carawan, 385-9433, or Tech. Sgt. Mark Tempone, 594-2003.

**Family support center** — for more information, visit the center, Room 112, Sablich Center, or call 377-2209 or 4293. Free child care available.

**Fisher House** — for more information, call Larry Vetter, 377-8264.

**Girl Scouts** — for more information, call Beverly Brooks, 864-7215, or Cindy Callahan, 388-7757.

**High school students** — dependents of active-duty people who want to earn money toward college by volunteering, call Jeri Peterson, 377-3349.

**Honor guard** — for more information, call 377-1986 or 2081.

**International military student office** — for more information, call 377-4228.

**McBride Library** — for more information, call Bill Province or Tonie Day, 377-2181 or 2604.

**Medical center** — for more information, call Emily Shelton, 377-1444.

**Retirees activities office** — for more information, call 377-3871 or 7309.

# MEETINGS

## Recurring

**African-American Heritage Committee** — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, Building 4002 (Supply), Room 109. For more information, call Paulette Powell, 377-2270, or Master Sgt. Natalie Scott, 377-9530.

**Air Force Association, Chapter 332** — 11:30 a.m. second Monday of each month, Keesler Club. For more information, call or email Capt. Ted Cassin, 377-3727, or [edward.cassin@keesler.af.mil](mailto:edward.cassin@keesler.af.mil) or e-mail Paul Deitke, [pdeitke@member.afa.org](mailto:pdeitke@member.afa.org).

**Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 652** — 11 a.m. third Tuesday of each month, Keesler Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Scott Sippel, 377-9444 .

**Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary** — 6 p.m. third Thursday of each month. For location and more information, call Timlie Reis, 396-5872.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** — 8 p.m. Thursdays, Larcher Chapel. For more information, call 396-0823.

**Amateur radio club** — 7 p.m. second Monday of each month, second floor, Hangar 3, next to the Civil Air Patrol. For more information, call Staff. Sgt. Brad Godwin, 377-0341 or 875-3223, or Staff Sgt. Tony Tran, 377-1200 or 396-4547.

**American Federation of Government Employees Local 2670** — 11:30-1 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, Keesler Club. For more information, call Helene Almond, 377-6850 or 4518.

**Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Committee** — 3 p.m. first Wednesday of each month, Magnolia Room, Keesler Community Center. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. John Dianala, 377-6154, or Larry McKean, 377-3252.

**AWANA** — 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sundays August through May at the former chapel located at corner of H and 2nd streets, for preschool through high school students. For more information, call Tasarla Shaw, 377-2520.

**Blacks in Government** — 5:15 p.m. second Thursday of each month, Building 4002 (Supply), Room 109. For more information, call Flo Clay, 377-8681.

**Boy Scout Troop 253** — 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Building 0007, Thrower Park. For more information, go to <http://www.geocities.com/biloxi253/> or call Louie Fontes, 377-1519 or 392-0646.

**Breast cancer support group** — 6 p.m. first Tuesday of each month, general surgery clinic. For more information, call 377-3454.

**Breastfeeding support group** — for more information, call Rebecca Wilson, 832-0413.

**Cancer support group** — 6 p.m. second Tuesday each month, medical procedures clinic lounge. For more information, call 377-6588.

**Chapel ropes** — 8 a.m. Sundays, Fishbowl Student Center.

**Charismatic intercessory prayer service** — 5:15-6 p.m. Wednesdays at former chapel located at corner of H and 2nd streets.

**Christian men's fellowship luncheon** — noon Tuesdays, Triangle Chapel. Bring lunch. For more information, call 377-2520.

**Christian singles** — various hours and activities at The Haven. For more information, call Willie Page, 392-1399.

**Civil Air Patrol, Col. Berta A. Edge Composite Squadron** — 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Room 210, Hangar 3. For more informa-

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# SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

## 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30 332nd TRS, Building 6955
:01	:31 338th TRS, Building 6965
:02	:32 Welch Auditorium
:04	:34 Smith Manor
:07	:37 Cody, Dolan and Thomson Hall
:08	:38 Supply
:09	:39 Shoppette
:10	:40 Shaw House
:11	:41 Main exchange
:12	:42 McBride Library
:13	:43 Medical center, Tyler House
:14	:44 Sablich Center
:15	:45 Dental clinic
:16	:46 Allee and Wolfe Halls
:17	:47 Base operations
:18	:48 Hangar 4
:19	:49 Thomson Hall

## 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. off-Fridays, weekends, holidays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30 332nd TRS, Building 6955
:02	:32 Shoppette
:04	:34 White Avenue Gate
:05	:35 Shaw House
:06	:36 Main exchange
:07	:37 Keesler Federal Credit Union
:08	:38 Medical center, Tyler House
:09	:39 Sablich Center
:10	:40 Dental clinic
:13	:43 Marina park
:14	:44 Bay Breeze Golf Course
:15	:45 Pass Road Gate
:17	:47 Welch Auditorium
:18	:48 338th TRS, Building 6965

## Technical training route 5:10-5:30 a.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:10	Shaw House
:12	Muse Manor
As required	Tyer House
:14	TLQ east side 2000 block
:16	TLQ east side of Locker House
:17	332nd TRS
:18	335th TRS
:20	Welch Auditorium
:26	Thomson/Dolan/Cody Halls
:27	McClelland Hall
:28	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:30	Stennis Hall/Weather

## Prior-service students lodged off-base

**Allow four-minute window for times; lobby area pickup.**

**To Keesler via Highway 90:** 5:15 a.m. and 1:25 p.m., Comfort Suites, Comfort Inn and Holiday Inn; 5:18 a.m. and 1:28 p.m., Howard Johnson Express and Best Western Swan; 5:21 a.m. and 1:35 p.m., Ramada Limited; 5:25 a.m., Edgewater Inn; 5:32 a.m. and 1:50 p.m., Biloxi Beachfront and Holiday Inn Express.

**To Keesler from north of base:** 5 a.m. and 1 p.m., Martinique; 5:01 a.m. and 1:04 p.m., South Palm Villas; 5:06-5:10 a.m. and 1:10-1:16 p.m., Ocean Springs Days Inn, Howard Johnson, Holiday Inn and Hampton Inn; 5:11-5:16 a.m. and 1:20-1:31 p.m., Ocean Springs Country Inn and Suites, Ramada Limited, Best Western and Comfort Inn; 5:18-5:22 a.m. and 1:41-1:47 p.m., D'Iberville Wingate Inn, Quality Inn and Travelodge; 5:25-5:35 a.m. and 1:53-1:56 p.m., D'Iberville Howard Johnson and Suburban Lodge.

**Back to off-base lodging:** 3:30, 4:30 and 6:15 p.m., street side of Hewes Hall for Bryan, Jones, Hewes and Garrard halls; 3:33, 4:33 and 6:18 p.m., Thomson Hall stop for Hangar 3, Thomson, Cody and Dolan halls; 3:36, 4:36 and 6:21 p.m., McClelland Hall; 3:38, 4:38 and 6:23 p.m., behind Allee Hall for 7-level building, weather building and Allee, Wolfe and Stennis halls; 3:41, 4:41 and 6:26 p.m., stop between base exchange and McBride Library.

**Duty passengers have priority over "space available" riders. Schedule may be impacted by increased official operations or severe weather. Those who are physically challenged or have excess baggage, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430.**



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tion, call Lt. Col. Linda Steel-Goodwin, 377-7152 or 436-3353, or CAP 1st Lt. Hank Rogers, commander for seniors, 435-6270.

**Company grade officers council** — 4 p.m. second Thursday of each month, Keesler Club. For more information, call Capts. Branin Klausman, 377-4045, or Jeffrey Burns 7-0663, or visit <https://wwwmil.keesler.af.mil/CGOC/index.htm>.

**Cub Scout Pack 214** — for information, call Staff Sgt. Christian Carawan, 385-9433, or Tech. Sgt. Mark Tempone, 594-2003.

**Cub Scout Pack 281** — 6:30 p.m. first, second and fourth Thursday of each month, Triangle Chapel Annex. For more information, call 1st Lt. Garon Shelton, 377-2046; Norma Cusanek, 432-3160, or Chad Taylor, 594-0877.

**Dorm council** — 7 a.m. first Wednesday of each month, Live Oak dining facility. For more information, call 377-6158 or 6680.

**Hispanic Heritage Committee** — 3:30 p.m. Thursdays, Keesler Community Center. For more information, call Maria Ochoa, 377-2211, 388-2985 or 216-0569; Carlos Puig, 385-2985, or Dee McKaig, 432-1090.

**Hispanic Employment Committee** — 4 p.m. second Wednesday of each month, family child care building, Thrower Park. For more information, call Maria Ochoa, 377-2211, 388-3426 or 216-0569.

**Keesler Officers Spouses Club** — for more information, call Michelle Harper, 872-579; Amanda Letonoff, 432-8626, or Patty Stiles, 392-8582.

**Keesler Christian Home Educators Association** — 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of each month, September through May, former chapel located at corner of H and 2nd streets. Open to all military home educators. For more information, call Vicky Walton, 436-6408, or e-mail [chajanding@aol.com](mailto:chajanding@aol.com).

**Medical center officers spouses club** — for more information, call Stephanie Ritter, 374-2464, or Belinda Manuel, 432-7734.

**Multiples support group** — For more information, call Marty Cummings, 388-4595.

**Order of Daedalians** — 6:30 p.m. third Tuesday of each month, Daedalian Room, Keesler Club.

**Play group** — 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesdays, youth activities center, infants through 4 years. For more information, call 377-7006.

**Prayer warriors network** — 6 a.m. Mondays, Triangle Chapel.

**Protestant youth group** — 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday, 7-7:45 p.m. Tuesdays and 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Larcher Chapel. For more information, call Jeremy Allen, 377-2520.

**Retired Enlisted Association, Magnolia Chapter** — 7 p.m. second Thursday of each month, Magnolia Room, Keesler Community Center. For more information, call Larry McKean, 374-5922.

**Rising VI Association** — 3:15 p.m. third Wednesday of each month, Keesler Community Center. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Anthony Thomas, 377-8628.

**Toastmasters** — noon Tuesdays, Keesler Community

## KIRT

Keesler Integrated Resource Team members serve the community needs of military personnel and families. Member agencies support mission readiness and provide preventive or intervention services to promote mental and spiritual growth, physical health, and strong military members and their families.

KIRT members are:

**Life skills enhancement center** — 377-6216, comment line 377-6780.

**Family support center** — 377-2179.

**Family advocacy** — 377-7006.

**Family member program** — 377-3077.

**Health and wellness center** — 377-5305.

**403rd Wing** — 377-3277.

**Chapel** — Larcher, 377-4859; Keesler Medical Center, 377-6337; Triangle, 377-2520, and Fishbowl Student Center, 377-2331.

### Classes, seminars

**Parenting classes** — 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesday and April 27, family advocacy office, Sablich Center. For reservations, call 377-7006.

**Marriage enrichment classes** — 3-5 p.m. Tuesday and April 26, family advocacy office, Sablich Center. For reservations, call 377-7006.

Center. For more information, call Capt. Ronnie Michael, 377-7395; or Michael Bayne, 872-9359.

**Top III Association** — 3 p.m. first working Friday of each month, Keesler Community Center. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Lori Pullen, 377-9759; Master Sgt. Randy Schneider, 377-0066; Senior Master Sgt. Marnice Anthony, 377-8431; Master Sgt. Jeffrey Sandoval, 377-6969, and Master Sgt. Richard Phillips, 377-5249.

**Weight Watchers** — Thursdays, Keesler Community Center. Weigh-in starts at 5:15 p.m., meeting at 5:45. For more information, call Kristi Hamrick, 872-9059, or e-mail [khhamrick@yahoo.com](mailto:khhamrick@yahoo.com).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Movies at Welch Auditorium

**Editor's note:** Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

**Today** — 7 p.m., Cursed (PG-13, 96 minutes).

**Friday** — 7 p.m., Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG-13, 116 minutes).

**Saturday** — 2 p.m., The Pacifier (PG, 91 minutes); 7 p.m., Be Cool (PG-13, 114 minutes); 9:30 p.m., Man of the House (PG-13, 97 minutes).

**Sunday** — 2 p.m., Be Cool (PG-13, 114 minutes) (PG, 91 minutes).

## Keesler Thrift Shop

### Mondays

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (sales only)

### Wednesdays and Thursdays

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (sales); 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (consignments accepted at rear entrance)

Building 3217, 412 3rd Street, behind the Keesler Club

377-3217

operated by the Keesler Officers Spouses Club